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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

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STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

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APR 2 1984

March 23, 1984

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Re: Preliminary Environmental Review  
Sherman Class II  
Landfill, Sunburst, MT

Board of County Commissioners, Toole Co. Courthouse, Shelby  
Ken Ballentyne, Toole Co. Sanitarian, City Hall, Basement, Shelby  
John Sveum, Secretary, Sunburst-Sweetgrass Area Refuse Disposal  
District, P. O. Box 153, Sunburst  
Jim Sherman, P. O. Box 265, Sunburst  
Carroll N. Schlegel, Sunburst, Montana  
County Planning Board, Toole Co. Courthouse, Shelby  
Kent Brimhall, Mayor, Town of Sunburst P. O. Box 245, Sunburst  
Ken Hannon, Mayor, Town of Kevin, P. O. Box 274, Kevin  
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences, DHES, Helena  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg., Helena  
Harold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604,  
the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the  
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Jim Sherman's  
Class II Landfill in Sunburst, MT.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform  
all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of  
the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have  
a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary  
Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15)  
days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within  
the allotted time.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. GEACH  
Solid Waste Management Bureau  
Environmental Sciences Division

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601  
(406) 444-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application Jim Sherman Class II Landfill License Application

Description of Project Jim Sherman, Sunburst, MT has submitted a solid waste management system license application to develop and operate a Class II (household refuse) landfill. This proposed landfill would be located in the W $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 25 Township 36N 2W of Toole County. The landfill would accept both Group II wastes (house garbage) and Group III wastes (demolition and wood materials).

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		X
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality			X			X
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy			X			X
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

# POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production			X			X
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income			X			X
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment			X			X
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				x		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			x			x

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Toole County Health Department, Sunburst

Sweet Grass Refuse Disposal District

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS Not Necessary

PER Prepared by: John C. Geach  
JOHN C. GEACH

Date: March 22, 1984

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. Water quality, quantity and distribution

This proposed site is located on a small plateau above a drainage to the west. Soil testing in the drainage vicinity indicated evidence of a shallow perched water table. The quality and production rates of this water source render it of little value for domestic or livestock usages.

However in order to protect this water source from possible contamination, the landfill boundaries will be confined to an approximate 5 acre area on the plateau above the drainage. This location will allow the minimum required separation distances between the buried refuse and this perched water table to be maintained.

3. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture

Normal landfill operations modify the soil's moisture and stability within the filled areas. Some minor settling may occur over completed trench areas. However, with proper grading and re-dressing of these areas no serious or long term settling problems will result.

4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality

This area currently contains native vegetation including small plants and grasses. This vegetation will be disturbed during landfilling, however, this disturbance will be short term and these plant species should quickly re-establish on the filled portions of the site.

5. Aesthetics

The aesthetics of the area will be slightly altered during the operation of the landfill. Uncontrolled litter poses the greatest aesthetic impact on the area. Both parameter and portable litter fencing have been proposed to be used at the site to control blown litter. The use of these fences along with a routine schedule for their cleaning and maintenance should provide effective litter control.

6. Air quality

Licensed landfill sites are eligible to apply for state air quality burning permits for clean untreated wood wastes. If this site chooses to dispose of wood wastes by burning, the area's air quality will be slightly impacted during these permitted fires. It is anticipated only one or two permitted fires per year would be required to dispose of these wood wastes.

8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air and energy.

Due to surface settling and the generation of carbon monoxide and methane gases from the breakdown of the buried refuse, completed landfills cannot be used for conventional building sites. Structures can be built in these areas using special construction designs. However, for all practical purposes a completed landfill places a long term commitment on the land for future building site development.

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

### 4. Agricultural or industrial production

The development of this landfill will temporarily remove approximately 5 acres from future agricultural grazing or production. This loss will be relatively short term and agricultural activities can be reinstituted on the completed landfill site.

### 6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income

This landfill is a private development which will provide a source of personal income. This development will also provide employment for at least one to two people on a part time basis.

### 8. Quantity and distribution of employment

See #6 above.

### 10. Demands for government services

Governmental services will be required on the local and state levels for administrative and inspectional services associated with the issuance of a solid waste management system license to this landfill.

### 12. Demands for energy

Diesel fuel and other petroleum products will be consumed in the refuse transportation to the landfill site and in the operation of the equipment needed at the site to properly handle and dispose of the refuse.

### 14. Transportation networks and traffic flows

The majority of the refuse brought to this landfill site will be transported by private vehicles. The proposed hours for this landfill are three partial days per week. During these operational hours increased traffic flows can be anticipated on the county roads leading to the landfill site. Increased road maintenance will be required to compensate for the increased traffic flows on these roads.





